

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the abstract page beginning on page 6 to read as follows:

**Summary Abstract**

The invention relates to a method and an analysis arrangement for the determination of characteristics and/or classification of circulating macrophages. A whole blood sample is subjected to a gradient centrifugation for isolating macrophages. The macrophage cells are then perforated and provided with an intracellular staining with at least one selected antibody. A flow cytometric analysis of the pre-treated cells enables a subsequent statistical evaluation of the cell contents. PSA, a cytokeratin and/or an epithelial membrane antigen are selected as antibodies.